

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-06 SS-07 AID-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

SSO-00 /027 W

----- 058025

O P 230833Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7371

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CDR JCRC NKP

AF MPC RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS

CSAF WASHDC

DIA/DI-6A4 WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, OREP, LA

SUBJECT: CODEL GILMAN

REF: (A) STATE 014269 (NOTAL)

(B) VIENTIANE 0464

(C) VIENTIANE 8567 (12/18/73) (NOTAL)

(D) STATE 014235 (NOTAL)

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REF A AND EXPANDS ON
INFORMATION RE VANG PAO/CODEL MEETING REPORTED IN
REF B.

2. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION BY U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL
RE VANG PAO'S ALLEGATIONS REVEALED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:

AS TO THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION, GENERAL
VANG PAO INDICATED THAT A MEMBER OF HIS HOUSEHOLD
STAFF HAD OBTAINED THE INFORMATION ABOUT TEN DAYS PREVIOUSLY
FROM A PATHET LAO SOURCE IN

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VIENTIANE. THE INFORMANT ALLEGED THAT ABOUT TWO

MONTHS AGO HE HAD PERSONALLY OBSERVED AMERICANS WORKING WITH THE NVA NEAR THE DMZ. THE INFORMANT ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE AMERICANS WERE NOT RESTRAINED IN ANY MANNER AND WERE FREE TO MOVE ABOUT WITHOUT SUSPICION. VANG PAO STATED THAT HE HAD NO OTHER INFORMATION EXCEPT THAT THE INFORMANT INDICATED THAT HE HAD TRAVELED BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL AND THAT HE OBSERVED THE AMERICANS DURING ONE OF THESE TRIPS. WHEN ASKED WHY THIS INFORMATION HAD NOT BEEN PASSED TO THE U.S. MISSION PREVIOUSLY, VANG PAO STATED THAT HE HAD ONLY RECENTLY RECEIVED THE REPORT AND INTENDED TO PERSONALLY PURSUE THE MATTER AFTER DISCUSSION WITH U.S. MISSION ADVISER, BUT, IN VIEW OF CODEL GILMAN'S OBVIOUS INTEREST IN THE PW/MIA SITUATION, HE OPTED TO PASS THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO THE CODEL DURING THE JANUARY 16 LUNCHEON. VANG PAO ALSO STATED THAT HE WILL INTENDS TO PERSONALLY INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND, IF POSSIBLE, MEET WITH THE INFORMANT. VANG PAO HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED TO CODEL THAT HE (VANG PAO) SHOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO REPORT WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

2. COMMENT: REF C REPORTED ESSENTIALLY SAME ALLEGATIONS THAT VANG PAO MADE ON OCTOBER 17 TO LEAGUE OF FAMILIES DELEGATION DURING LEAGUE VISIT TO VIENTIANE. AT THAT MEETING, VNG PAO PRESENTED THE THEORY RE THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN DRV AS AN OPINION, CITING NO RELIABLE SOURCE. SOURCE ALLEGED IN PARA TWO ABOVE WAS NOT PRESENT IN VIENTIANE AT THAT TIME. U.S. MISSION HAS UNCOVERED NO EVIDENCE TO DATE WHICH WOULD CORROBORATE THE SOURCE OR VALIDITY OF VANG PAO'S THEORY. HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE MATTER IN LINE WITH CODEL'S REQUEST REPORTED IN REF D. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POW, MIA, POW RETURN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI00539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740120/aaaaasum.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 014269 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 OCT 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL GILMAN
TAGS: MOPS, OREP, LA, US, (VANG PAO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005